


A Guide: How to Prepare a Review of a Children's Book on Deaf Culture

- ❑ **How long is it?** Neatly write or print **two pages**.
- ❑ **What do I do?** Get and read a children's book.
- ❑ **What's in the review?** There are four parts:
 - (1) say where you found it & describe what type of book it is;
 - (2) summarize the contents;
 - (3) discuss how the book explains Deaf culture;
 - (4) explain your opinion of the book as an adult reader; next, comment if you think younger readers would enjoy the book (or not).




Support all opinions with examples and reasons.

You are **not** required to answer every question in this guide. These questions are meant to help you. **Use only questions appropriate to your book.**


 **Paragraph one:** (a) Tell where you found the book. Demonstrate initiative: find a book in your neighborhood library. Go to a bookstore. Order a book online.

(b) Write a general description, including the title, author, copyright and publisher of your book.

(c) Describe the front and back covers of the book. Are there illustrations on the cover? Do you find the book attractive? ...would kids like it? Why? (or, Why not?) What about the appearance of the book or its title makes you want to read it?

 **Paragraph two:** (a) What kind of reader would like this book? Tell if the book is geared for a very young child, a preteen, or a reader in between. Is the book intended for any reader or is it specifically meant for Deaf or hard of hearing readers? Is the book meant to enlighten hearing readers about deafness? (b.) Write a summary that tells what kind of book it is. Is it a sign language dictionary? ...a picture book? ...a collection of poems with ASL translations? ...a story about a Deaf character? a 'regular' children's book that has pictures of sign added to it? Were signs included in the book? (c) Describe the front and back covers of the book. Are there illustrations on the cover? Do you find the book attractive? ...would kids like it? Why? (or, Why not?) What about the appearance of the book or its title makes you want to read it?


*****Support all statements with reasons and examples.**

 **Paragraph three:** (a) How is ASL included in this book? If there are signs, were they depicted in photographs or drawings? Comment on the clarity of the pictures and how they explain movement and location. Do you think the signs are easy to understand? Could a young reader make the signs by look at the picture? Can you?

If no signs were used, do you believe that this is a flaw? Or, if pictures of signs were omitted, do you think this was appropriate?

(b) Describe how the book addresses Deaf culture. Is the book a biography about a Deaf person? Is it a story about a Deaf character? Does the book try to teach readers about what it is like to be Deaf? Does it teach about how the ear functions or how hearing aids work? What helpful information might hearing children (or their adult friends) learn about being Deaf or hard of hearing? How would this book create positive feelings in Deaf or hard of hearing readers?

*****Support all statements with reasons and examples.**

 **Paragraph four:** Comment on weakness and strengths of the book. If you find the book to be engaging, say so and explain what engaged you. Do you think a parent would enjoy reading this to a child? Is the book clear enough for a child to use independently? If the book was boring, what suggestions could you offer to improve it? If you think this should be a popular book, why would you recommend it to others?

*****Support all statements with reasons and examples.**



Deadlines:

May 9, 2011 or before: Bring your book to class.

May 23, 2011 or before: Submit (a hard copy, neatly typed or printed in black or blue ink) or email a final draft to acohen@philasd.org before 3:00 PM.